Rise in population in border areas of West Bengal and Bihar

744. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALLA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of villages, cities and towns located in border areas of West Bengal and Bihar where according to the Census of 1971 and 1981 the population has increased (i) 40 to 99 per cent; and (ii) 100 per cent; and

(b) what are the reasons for the rise in population and necessary steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) Statement containing the required information is placed on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix CXLI, Annexure No. 23].

(b) The increase in population in these areas may be the result of combined effect of the three factors of population growth, namely Fertility, Mortality and Migration. It is difficult to attribute the growth of population to any single factor.

Modernisation and renovation of textile mills

745. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI:

SHRI KALPNATH RAI:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme under Government's consideration for modernisation and renovation of the textile mills;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether foreign agencies are being involved in the above scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) The Textile Modernisation Fund Scheme, operated by the Industrial Development Bank of India, has come into operation from 1st August, 1986 to finance the modernisation needs of the cotton textile mills.

(b) About 25 per cent (Rs. 190 crores) of the Fund will be utilised for providing modernisation assistance to healthy units and the bulk of it (Rs. 560 crores) would be provided to weak but viable units. A part of the Fund, aproximately to the extent of Rs. 100 crores has been earmarked for providing special loans in the case of weak but viable units as a major part (upto 80 per cent) of the promoter's contribution.

(c) No, Sir.

Increase in Thar desert area

746. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the area of the Thar desert in Rajasthan has increased in recent years;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps are being taken to arrest the widening of the desert area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) and (b) The results of the integrated research conducted by the Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Jodhpur and the analysis of satellite imageries do not support the view that Thar desert continues to grow. However, the resources within the desert are showing indication of deterioration due to over-exploitation and opportunistic land-use tendencies, on account of increase in human and animal population in the desertic regions.

(c) Desertification control measures are being taken by a number of